

Supreme Court, for his earning the prestigious Judge Robert E. Dauer Award for Judicial Excellence on behalf of Amen Corner.

Amen Corner is an organization designed to foster relationships amongst people from all walks of life and honor those who have devoted their lives and careers to improving our communities, and serving Pittsburgh since 1870. Amen Corner has a long tradition of honoring members of the Judiciary and Bar Association of Allegheny County and the Commonwealth.

Chief Justice Emeritus Saylor graduated from the University of Virginia in 1969, followed by his graduation from Columbia Law School in 1972, before he began his career in general practice and prosecutor with Somerset County. He later earned a Master of Laws from the University of Virginia School of Law in 2004. His decades of service and tireless work in support of law and the Commonwealth also earned him honorary degrees from the Widener University School of Law and Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania.

Prior to his election as a justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, Chief Justice Saylor served as the First Assistant District Attorney with Somerset County before being named the Director of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Consumer Protection. He then served as the First Deputy Attorney General for the Commonwealth, preceding his election to the Pennsylvania Superior Court in 1993.

Chief Justice Saylor served as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in 1997, prior to being named Chief Justice of the Court in January 2015. Throughout his time on the Court, he has written more than 400 main opinions and demonstrated the collaborative and effective leadership of an independent judiciary.

For Chief Justice Emeritus Thomas G. Saylor's decades of service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States of America, I am honored to recognize his achievements and contributions, and congratulate him on earning the Judge Robert E. Dauer Award for Judicial Leadership and Excellence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday December 1, 2021, I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast my vote on three roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes" on roll call 389, passage of H.R. 2685; I would have voted "Yes" on roll call 390, passage of H.R. 4045; and I would have voted "Yes" on roll call 391, passage of H.R. 4055.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF DAVE FOSTER

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.)

Dave Foster who is retiring as the superintendent of the Andrew Johnson National Historic Site and the Andrew Johnson National Cemetery in Greeneville, Tennessee.

Before joining the National Park Service in 2009, he served twenty-one years in the United States Marine Corps with deployments to Kuwait, Iraq, and the Horn of Africa in support of the global war on terrorism. While in the military, he held leadership assignments at the company and battalion levels and retired at the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Dave began his National Park Service career as a subject-to-furlough maintenance worker at the Blue Ridge Parkway and has since served as a maintenance worker, utility systems operator, maintenance supervisor and facility manager on the Parkway. In 2014, he was selected by his peers to receive the class leadership award upon graduation from the Facility Manager Leaders Program. He attributes his success to the professional and dedicated teams he has worked with both at the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Andrew Johnson Historical Site. He said, "as a veteran, I am especially humbled by the privilege of overseeing one of the final resting places for our nation's heroes."

Born in western North Carolina, Dave holds a bachelor's degree in education from the University of South Carolina and a master's degree in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College. He and his wife Terri reside in Bedford, VA, and they have two children: Autumn and Brian.

Madam Speaker, Dave Foster, has served our country faithfully, first as a Marine across the world and later as an exemplary employee and leader in our National Park Service. I thank him for his service and congratulate him on his upcoming retirement in January of 2022.

RECOGNIZING THE ROTARY CLUB OF HARTFORD CITY

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mrs. SPARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Rotary Club of Hartford City as it celebrates its centennial anniversary.

Since receiving its charter in 1920, the Rotary Club of Hartford City has been serving Hartford City, Blackford County, and greater Indiana through time, hard work, and resources.

While its 100th year celebration was delayed by the pandemic, the club continued to place "Service Above Self" over the last year and half. Local organizations like this club have been the backbone of our society through this trial allowing America to weather this storm together.

I thank the Rotary Club of Hartford City for continuing to "serve best".

Again, my congratulations to the Rotary Club of Hartford City. Hoosiers are grateful for its kindness and generosity over the last century, and for centuries to come.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF PASTOR BYRON JONES

HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. GOODEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Pastor Byron (Boonie) Jones of First Baptist Church in Gun Barrel City, Texas, on his retirement. During his thirty-five years of service, Byron has been a stalwart of the community, always putting others' needs before his own.

Byron first joined the Ministry in 1979 at Eastside Baptist Church in Rusk, Texas and served on staff for three years before joining as Youth Minister at First Baptist Church, Gresham. In 1985, the First Baptist Church Gun Barrel City was fortunate to have Byron join as Pastor. When Byron first came to Gun Barrel City, the church was meeting in a city council meeting room until they were able to build a house of worship. Now, the First Baptist Church in Gun Barrel City, Texas, is one of the largest churches in Henderson County.

After 35 years of service, Pastor Byron Jones more than deserves a peaceful retirement, and I wish him the best.

I commend Pastor Byron Jones for his dedication to serving the people of Texas, and I know the First Baptist Church in Gun Barrel City will be sad to see him go.

RECOGNIZING SPECIALIST LUCAS SCHMITZ'S SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. MICHELLE FISCHBACH

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Retired Specialist Lucas Schmitz who sustained severe injuries while heroically serving the United States as part of the Minnesota Army National Guard.

Specialist Schmitz has spent his life serving others. In 2005, Schmitz was deployed to Iraq with the Minnesota Army National Guard as an Infantryman with the Second Combined Arms Battalion of the 34th Infantry Division. On July 25, 2006, the vehicle that Specialist Schmitz's was riding in hit an IED, forcing them to vacate it. While running to the next vehicle, Specialist Schmitz was injured by stepping on a second IED and tragically lost his right leg.

Upon his medical discharge from the Minnesota Army National Guard, Schmitz moved back to his hometown of Perham, Minnesota where he now lives with his wife, Tina, and three children. He has continued with his commitment to helping others by teaching special education at Perham Public Schools. Surrounded by the support of his family and community, Schmitz will receive a new home from the organization Homes For Our Troops that is specifically designed to accommodate the needs resulting from his injuries.

I am eternally grateful for Specialist Schmitz's dedication to our Nation, and the sacrifices the men and women in the military make every day as they risk their lives to keep us safe. On behalf of Minnesota and the